

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO ASSEMBLY, No. 1720

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 19, 2022

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 1720.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill requires the Police Training Commission in the Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety to include cultural diversity and implicit bias training in the basic training course for police officers appointed to a police department or force.

Current law requires the Department of Law and Public Safety to develop or identify a uniform cultural diversity and implicit bias training course, including an on-line tutorial, which includes instruction promoting positive interaction with all members residing in the community, regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation. The training course is available to every State, county, municipal, and campus police department or force for in-service training of its officers. This bill would require this cultural diversity and implicit bias training to be administered to police officers during their mandated basic training. The bill defines “implicit bias” as having attitudes towards people or associating stereotypes with them without conscious knowledge.

Finally, the bill requires instructors at basic training academies for police officers to receive specialized training in cultural diversity and implicit bias in policing.

As reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 1720 is identical to Senate Bill No. 2072 which also was reported to the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amendments make the bill consistent with current law, which requires the Department of Law and Public Safety to develop or identify training course materials concerning implicit bias.